**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A method for preparing a 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane comprising oxidising a 6-methoxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^6$,$\Delta^8$-morphinane for a time and under conditions sufficient to form a 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane-N-oxide and converting the formed N-oxide to the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the oxidation is carried out by treating the 6-methoxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^6$,$\Delta^8$-morphinane with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a carboxylic acid.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the carboxylic acid is formic acid or acetic acid.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the carboxylic acid is formic acid.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the concentration of formic acid is 45% by weight formic acid in water.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2 wherein the 6-methoxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^6$,$\Delta^8$-morphinane is treated with a molar excess of hydrogen peroxide at a concentration of 50% by weight in water.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~ claim 2 wherein the 6-methoxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^6$,$\Delta^8$-morphinane is dissolved in a mixture of the carboxylic acid and a solvent prior to the addition of the hydrogen peroxide.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the solvent is ethanol.

9. A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 wherein the oxidation is conducted at a temperature below 50°C.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the temperature is about 20°C.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10 including the additional~~ claim 1 further comprising the step of isolating the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane-N-oxide before the conversion to 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein the isolation step comprises neutralising the oxidation reaction mixture to a pH of about 7 by adding a base and collecting the N-oxide as a solid.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the base is selected from sodium or potassium hydroxide or potassium carbonate.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein the base is sodium hydroxide.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein sodium hydroxide is added to the oxidation reaction mixture at a rate which ensures that the reaction temperature reaches 55°C.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 wherein the formed N-oxide is converted to the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphine by treating the N-oxide with a reducing agent.

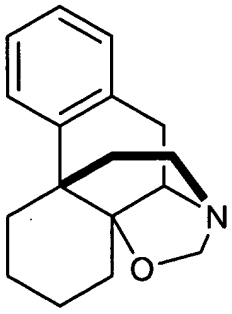
17. (Original) A method for converting a 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane-N-oxide to a 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane comprising subjecting the N-oxide to reducing conditions to ring close the N-methyl group with the 14-hydroxy group forming an oxazolidine ring, and hydrolysing the ring closed oxazolidine product to form the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the reducing conditions comprise treating the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane-N-oxide with a Fe(II) based reducing agent and formic acid.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the hydrolysing step is performed using a strong acid selected from hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, hydrobromic acid or phosphoric acid.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19 wherein the strong acid is hydrochloric acid.

21. (Original) A method of preparing a morphinane compound having a modified morphinane skeleton of structure (B)




(B)

said method comprising treating a 6-oxo-N-methyl-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane-N-oxide with an Fe(II) reducing agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to ring close the N-methyl group with the 14-hydroxy group.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 19 wherein the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane-N-oxide is treated as a slurry in methanol with a Fe(II) based reducing agent, whereby formic acid is added.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the Fe(II) reducing agent is $FeSO_4$.

24. (Original) A method for preparing N-alkyl or N-alkenyl 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-morphinanes comprising:

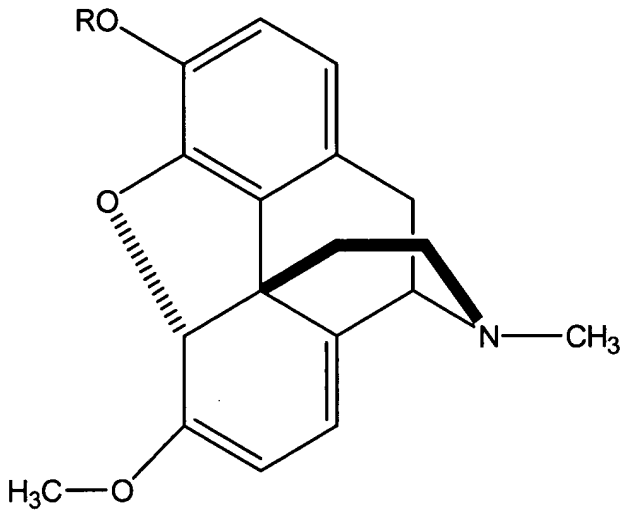
oxidising a 6-methoxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^6$,$\Delta^8$-morphinane for a time and under conditions sufficient to form a 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane-N-oxide,

converting the formed N-oxide to a 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane,

reducing the $\Delta^7$ double bond to form a 6-oxo-14-hydroxy morphinane, and

subjecting the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-morphinane to N-alkylation to introduce the N-alkyl or N-alkenyl substituent.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 16 and 24~~ claim 1 wherein the 6-methoxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^6$,$\Delta^8$-morphinane is a compound of formula I:



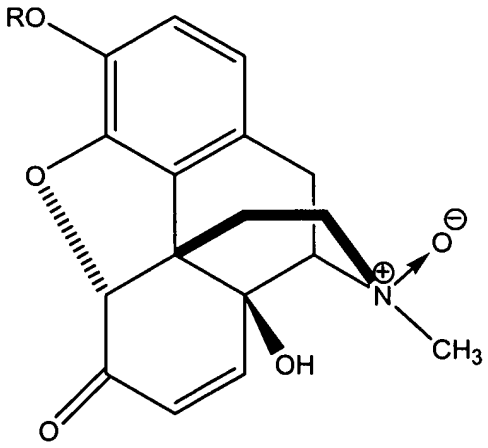

I

where R is H, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, benzyl or acyl.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the 6-methoxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^6$,$\Delta^8$-morphinane is a compound of formula I where R is H or $CH_3$.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein wherein the 6-methoxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^6$,$\Delta^8$-morphinane is a compound of formula I where R is H.

28. (Original) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 24~~ claim 1 wherein the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane-N-oxide is compound of formula II:



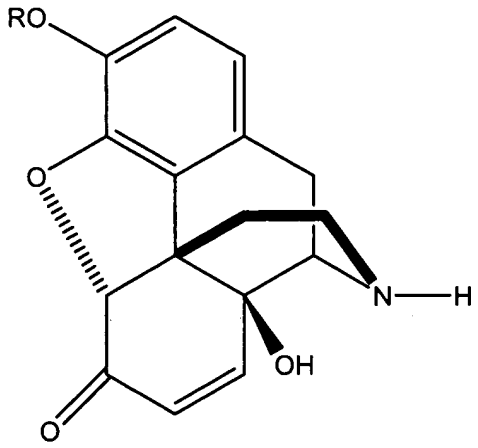

II

where R is independently selected from H, $C_1$-$C_6$alkyl, benzyl or acyl.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28 wherein the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane N-oxide is compound of formula II where R is H or $CH_3$.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29 wherein the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-N-methyl-$\Delta^7$-morphinane N-oxide is a compound of formula II where R is H.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 20 and 24~~ claim 1 wherein the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane is a compound of formula III:



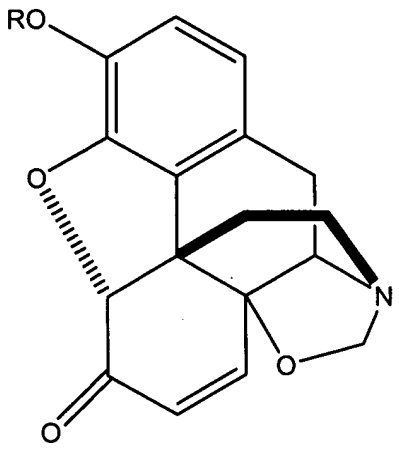

III

wherein R is H, $C_1$-$C_6$alkyl, benzyl or acyl.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31 wherein the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane is a compound of formula III where R is H or $CH_3$.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 32 wherein the 6-oxo-14-hydroxy-$\Delta^7$-morphinane is a compound of formula III where R is H.

34. (Original) An oxazolidine of formula IV:



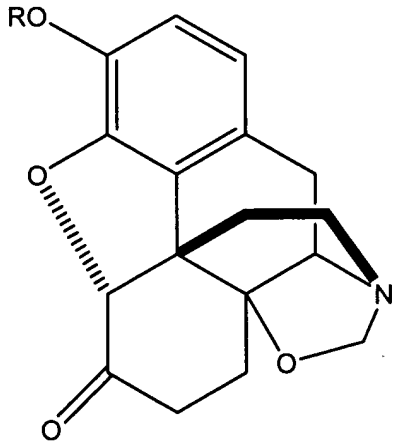

IV

where R is H, $C_1$-$C_6$alkyl, benzyl or acyl.

35. An oxazolidine of formula IV according to claim 34 wherein R is H, $CH_3$ or benzyl.

36. An oxazolidine of formula IV according to claim 35 wherein R is H.

37. An oxazolidine of formula V:




V

where R is H, $C_1$-$C_6$alkyl, benzyl or acyl.

38. An oxazolidine of formula V according to claim 37 wherein R is H or $CH_3$.

39. An oxazolidine of formula V according to claim 38 wherein R is H.